



# Student Discussion Groups

## FOUR STEPS to a Successful Discussion

- 1 Decide on the format.**  
Some schools have one-time discussions on a specific topic. Others have on-going advisory groups or ask a FACS or other class to offer feedback and ideas.
- 2 Recruit.** Ask for volunteers using your menu, student survey, school newsletter, video, or website and ask teachers, the school nurse, principal, wellness committee members and parents for help.
- 3 Structure the conversation.** Decide on the topic(s) and a few questions ahead of time. Consider structuring the discussion with a simple survey.
- 4 Follow up.** Keep the conversation going and let students know that their opinions matter.

## STAY CONNECTED

Visit us on the web at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/schools/greattrays/>

**“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.” Henry Ford**

**The concept of a discussion group is simple. Your students are your customers. Listening to them and sharing information demonstrates excellent customer service. There are many ways to use a discussion group:**

- 1. Receive detailed feedback about a specific topic** such as menu selections, serving line, or the dining environment.
- 2. Offer taste tests** of a few foods in the same category such as pizza, vegetables or legume salads.
- 3. Recruit “Lunch Ambassadors”** to spread the word about your program to their peers using word-of-mouth, student news and social media.

## GREAT IDEA

Many schools use surveys to measure customer satisfaction. An annual student survey for food service can meet two important goals:

- Get valuable input about customer likes and dislikes
- Recruit members for a discussion group

The most useful questions highlight important topics in a simple format. Use a scoring range of 1—3, yes or no, or multiple choice. For example:

- On a scale of 1—3 (1=poor and 3=great) rate the variety of food. Ask similar questions about specific foods, staff helpfulness, etc.
- We need student input! Will you join a student group to share your ideas with us? Yes/No

## GREAT RESOURCE

The Georgia School Nutrition Association has a handbook on creating a Nutrition Advisory Council. It is available at <http://www.gsfsa.com/uploadedFiles/GSNA-NAC/NAC%20Handbook.pdf>